

CLAIMS

1) Method for informing a person that he or she can access to a WLAN, said person carrying or being associated with a mobile data terminal and a radiotelephone terminal, method wherein it consists in:

- first detecting the presence of the WLAN, by receiving identity or presence signals broadcasted by a or the radio access point of the considered WLAN, with a radio receiver associated to or integrated in said mobile data terminal and which is adapted and susceptible to receive radio signals broadcasted by a WLAN, and,
- then sending a signal or a message, via a short range radio transmitter, to said radiotelephone terminal equipped with an adapted receiver, in order to inform said person that he or she can access to said WLAN.

2) Method according to claim 1, wherein it consists in putting beforehand said mobile data terminal in a mode in which it scans periodically, preferably at (a) given frequency(ies) or within a given frequency range, for the existence of an identity or a presence signal from a WLAN for which the considered person is a potential user.

3) Method according to anyone of claims 1 and 2, wherein the scanning for an available WLAN is based on detection of a or the network identifier broadcasted by the or a WLAN to which the concerned person has subscribed.

4) Method according to anyone of claims 1 to 3, wherein a successful detection of a WLAN to which the concerned person has subscribed is also notified directly by the mobile data terminal, by means of an audio signal and/or a visual message displayed on its screen.

5) Method according to anyone of claims 1 to 4, wherein the mobile data terminal and the radiotelephone terminal are equipped with wireless personal area network interfaces, such as IrDa and Bluetooth interfaces.

6) Portable communication system able to inform a person that he or she can access to a WLAN, said system comprising a mobile data terminal and a radiotelephone terminal, wherein said mobile data terminal is associated with or integrates, on the one hand, a radio receiver which is

adapted and susceptible to receive identity or presence radio signals broadcasted by a or the radio access point of the considered WLAN and, on the other hand, a short range radio transmitter, able to send a signal or a message in order to inform said person that he or she can access to said WLAN and in that said radiotelephone terminal is equipped with a receiver adapted to receive the signal or message sent by said short range transmitter of said mobile data terminal.

7) System according to claim 6, wherein it is able to perform the method according to anyone of claims 1 to 5.